
Bottoms Up!

Larry Cohen (#3724)

I am asking all members to look at their back-sides – that is the back sides of their perfinned stamps!

Over the past year I have been asking everyone I could, to look at the face of their perfins to see if they have any 2¢ Black Hardings. The results have been fantastic. We have increased the number of reported (and verified) patterns from 497 in 1991-92 to over 1300 at present!

But we have only scratched the surface. There is an entire mouthful of hen's teeth out there just waiting to be discovered. The only problem is that most of us put our perfin patterns in our albums or stock books with their back sides up so the pattern shows off better. Unfortunately, after a while the image (the vignette) on the obverse (or face) becomes a distant memory.

Here's your chance to reintroduce yourself to some

old friends by clearing away the cobwebs and looking at each of your perfins for the first time in what might well be a long time.

While you are going down memory lane (Note: While Bob Schwerdt lives in Poughkeepsie at 9 Memory Lane, that's not the one I want you to visit – unless you call him first!), I'd like to ask you to make note of any 2¢ Black Hardings you might come across and especially any "prepers" that rear their wonderful little striped faces.

To date there are only two dozen, count 'em - 24 – 2¢ Black Harding precancelled perfins known. This includes one from Saint Louis, MO that was just discovered in early May of this year. Are there many more to be found or will 24 be the ultimate set of these hen's teeth?

Here are the ones we know about.

STATE	TOWN	PERF	T&T TYPE	PERFIN CAT NO	LISTED USER
AK	Pine Bluff	10	L-2 TS	S-284	St. Louis Southwestern Rwy. Line
CA	San Francisco	11	L-3 E	G72-26	General Electric Co.
	San Francisco	11	L-3 E	S80	Shreve & Co.
GA	Atlanta	11	L-4 E	N124	Norris Co.
MI	Detroit	11	204	P55	Park Davis Co.
	Detroit	11	204	S25	Standard Accident Ins. Co.
	Grand Rapids	11	205	S195-33	Standard Oil Co.
	Kalamazoo	11	204	U14	Upjohn Co.
MN	Minneapolis	11	205	M96	user unknown
	Minneapolis	11	205	S81	Sharoot Co.
MO	Columbia	11	222	U41	University of Missouri
	St. Louis	11	L-6 E	N122	N. O. Nelson Co.
NY	Brooklyn	11	219	F8	E. L. Faber & Co.
	Brooklyn	11	219	S273	S. Stemau & Co.
	Long Is. City	11	207	S132	Smith Grey & Co.
ND	Grand Forks	11	462	I43.7B-16	International Harvester Co.
	Minot	11	L-1 HS	S195-21	Standard Oil Co.
OH	Cincinnati	11	205	B279	Baltimore & Ohio RR
	Cleveland	11	225	J177	user unknown
	Cleveland	11	225	M154	M. C. Lilley & Co.
OR	Portland	11	204	B103	Blumauer-Frank Drug Co.
PA	Philadelphia	11	205	Q5	Quaker Lace Co.
	Philadelphia	11	205	U82-4	United Shoe Machinery Co.
	Philadelphia	11	205	W72-2	Western Electric Co.

Please check and see what you have and let me know what you find. We are offering a prize for the first *new* BH preper found, reported and verified (on a Black Harding....).

The Black Hardings represent the rarest of all preper categories thus far reported. No other issue has so

few reported precancelled perfins. But be careful when you're looking for these little black beauties, they can come in both perf 10 and 11. Perf 10 seems to be only about 5% of the overall count and only one preper has been reported, so far.

So bottoms up! And have a great time, please.
